**Subject:** Taking action to limit the spread of the Coronavirus

From: Council President Nury Martinez < councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>

**Date:** 3/12/20, 4:41 PM **To:** <Sarah.Bell@lacity.org>

# TAKING ACTION TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS AND PROTECT FAMILIES



Dear Friend:

Given the increasing number of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) cases throughout Los Angeles, I sent a letter last night to my Council colleagues informing them that all City Council Committee meetings in the month of March are canceled and the City Council will only meet three times: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. All other Council meetings are canceled, as are any scheduled City Council Presentation (Resolution) Ceremonies.

We have the people's business to carry on and we are trying to do that while minimizing risk and exposure for all. I hosted a coronavirus update meeting on March 4, 2020 and things have moved rapidly since then. My City Council colleagues and I will be introducing a host of motions related to the coronavirus epidemic at our next meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 10 a.m. and receive an update from relevant agencies. You can watch these proceedings, and all City Council meetings, live on the City's Channel 35 broadcast.

Additionally, today I joined Mayor Eric Garcetti and County and LAUSD officials as he issued a <u>directive</u> that included the following safety measures:

- Temporary closure of the Los Angeles City Hall complex to members of the public, except for public meetings of the City Council;
- Transitioning board and commission meetings to accessible phone or video conference sessions that will allow constituents to make comments, ask questions, and engage with local leaders;
- Postponement or cancellation of all non-essential public community events or group activities with 50 or more participants, or that require close contact between vulnerable

individuals;

- A ban on all events or conferences on City-owned properties that are anticipated to attract more than 50 people;
- Development of plans to stagger entry for visitors in public buildings to no more than 50 at a time — including City museums, libraries, parks, pools, and community centers. Transit locations and similar facilities, including LAX and the Port of Los Angeles, as well as all City shelters, are exempt from this requirement at this time;
- Ensuring that hand-washing and sanitizing stations are available in City-owned public buildings, and that extra steps are taken to clean facilities regularly and thoroughly;
- Stopping all non-essential travel by City employees to all destinations, domestic or foreign;
- Ordering all General Managers to develop an Emergency COVID-19 Telecommuting Plan, which may be implemented in the event that it becomes unsafe for staff to safely travel to or work from their normal work location.

I have worked with my community partners and canceled large-scale events in my district, including LAFD Girl's Camp this weekend, and have asked my colleagues to do the same, especially following Governor Gavin Newsom and the State's Department of Public Health <u>recommendation</u> to cancel events with 250 or more people.

We should all adopt social distancing practices and continue to do our best to minimize our risk to exposure. For more information, please see the <u>LA County Department of Public Health website</u> or the City of Los Angeles <u>coronavirus information site</u>. Be well and be safe.

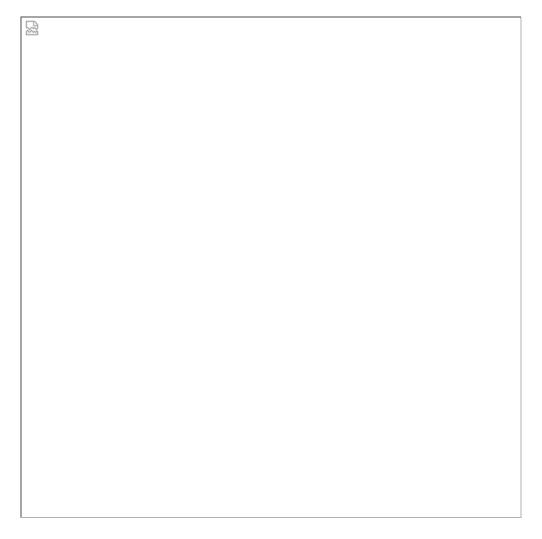
Blessings,

Nury

## **CORONAVIRUS IN LOS ANGELES**

There are currently 32 cases in L.A. County, as well as one death - a woman in her 60s with underlying health issues. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her and her family.

## **CDC AND LA COUNTY HEALTH GUIDELINES**



Please see the guidelines below for the prevention of the COVID-19 virus and practice these precautions at home and at work:

- People who are elderly, pregnant, or have a weak immune system, or other medical problems, are at higher risk of more serious illness or complications. It is recommended that you monitor your symptoms closely and seek medical care early if your symptoms get worse.
- Most people with respiratory infections like colds, the flu, and coronavirus disease (COVID-19) will have mild illness and can

- get better with appropriate home care and without the need to see a provider.
- Contact your local health provider in obtaining extra necessary medication to have in case of an outbreak. If you can't do so, then people are advised to mail-order for medications.
- Have enough household items and groceries so that people can be prepared to stay at home for a long period of time.
- Take preventive actions like washing your hands as often as people can for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place.
- Limit close contact with people who are sick.
- If soap and water are not available to use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- To the most extent avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places such as rails, elevator buttons, door handles. If you need to touch something then it is advised to do it with a piece of tissue or clothing.
- Avoid touching your face, nose and eyes.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose
  of the tissue and clean your hands immediately. If you do not
  have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- Clean and disinfect home for frequently touched places like the bathroom, sink, doorknobs, light switches, and cell phones.
- Stay home when you are sick. Stay home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever or symptoms of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines.
- Be on alert for the symptoms and emergency warning signs fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you feel like you are developing symptoms, call your doctor.
- For adults, some emergency signs are: difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face.

• If you are sick, stay home and call your doctor. Tell them you may have COVID-19. This will help take care of you and protect other people from getting infected.

Center for Disease Control (CDC) - Coronavirus Website

LA County Department of Public Health - Coronavirus Website

#### LADWP: THE SAFETY OF TAP WATER



There have been reports of people purchasing bottled water as a precautionary measure to ensure ample drinking water supply as part of emergency preparedness. LADWP wants to reassure our customers, the water at their tap continues to be of the highest quality and is 100 percent safe to drink. There is no threat to the

public drinking water supply and no need to use bottled water. LADWP's treatment processes are specifically designed to protect the public from all viruses and harmful bacteria. The use of LADWP water in handwashing is safe as an effective means of removing germs, in combination with the use of soap and proper <a href="handwashing measures">handwashing measures</a>.

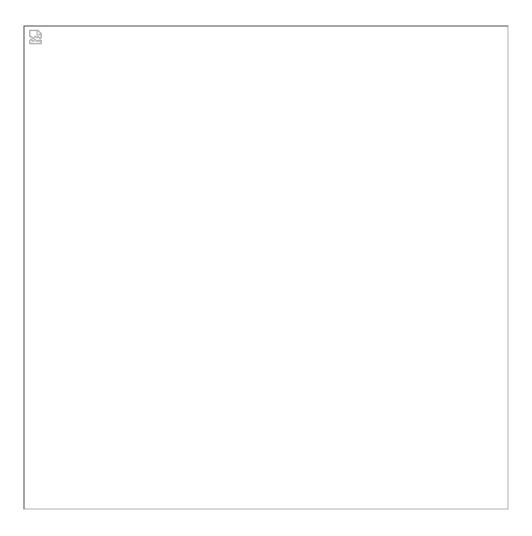
LADWP's drinking water supply undergoes proven scientific techniques and treatments before they reach our customers' tap, including filtration, ultraviolet light, and chlorine disinfection.

We will continue to closely monitor the progression of COVID-19 and to communicate with other water industry professionals to ensure the continued safety of our treated water supply.

#### **COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

Several colleges and universities have moved their classes to strictly online only. They include CSU Los Angeles, CSU Northridge, CSU Fullerton, CSU Long Beach, UCLA, USC, Chapman University, Pepperdine and the entire Los Angeles Community College District.

LAUSD AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM



L.A. Unified Superintendent Austin Beutner let parents know that the district has canceled all large student and staff gatherings in Los Angeles Unified schools. Athletic events, and other similar activities can continue, but without spectators attending.

Beutner recently announced that a partnership with KCET is in the works to prepare possible programing in case schools close down. So far, there has been no reports of the Coronavirus in LAUSD.

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